

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated October 24, 2005, in which: claims 2-63 have been subjected to a restriction requirement, wherein Group I includes claims 2-37 and 54 and Group II includes claims 38-53 and 55-63. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-27 and 54 are now pending. Claims 38-53 and 55-63 have been withdrawn in response to the above-mentioned restriction requirement. However, Assignee's election of claim group 1 for prosecution should not be taken as an indication that Assignee agrees with the Examiner's characterization of the claims. In addition, Assignee reserves the right to file a divisional or continuation application directed to the non-elected claim group, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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